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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 6-9, as amended, remain herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite more clearly applicants' invention. See applicants' specification, at page 12, line 19 to page 13, line 15.

Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

This Amendment places all claims 1, 4 and 6-9 in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 1, 4 and 6-9 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kaoh U.S. Patent 6,271,814 and Stackpole U.S. Patent 4,384,317.

The presently claimed display device comprises emission means, sensing means, timer, and specific functions of the emission means cooperative with the sensing means and timer, wherein such specific functions operate to override the control

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initiated by the timer. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

According to the presently claimed invention, the starting means of the emission means is for starting to supply power to the light emitting elements when the power supply start signal is generated by the timer, and the stopping means is for stopping supplying power to the light emitting elements when the power supply stop signal is generated by the timer. These start-stop functions allow power to be supplied to the light emitting elements only between the first predetermined time when the power supply start signal is generated by the timer and the second predetermined time when the power supply stop signal is initiated by the timer signal.

The presently claimed invention also comprises means for overriding the start-stop functions initiated by the timer signal, comprising means for switching on power and means for switching off power. Thus, (1) during periods outside the first and second predetermined times, power is switched on when the sensed illumination density is smaller than a predetermined threshold illumination density, and power is switched off (or

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kept off) when the sensed illumination density is larger than a predetermined threshold illumination density. And, (2) during the period between the first and second predetermined times, power is switched off (or kept off) when the sensed illumination density is larger than a predetermined threshold illumination density, and power is switched on when the sensed illumination density is smaller than a predetermined threshold illumination density.

Thus, while the timer function ensures that the light emitting elements are turned on and off according to a preset timing (i.e., between first and second predetermined times), there also is an overriding control that turns the elements off (or keeps them off) if the ambient light level is too high, or turns them on (or keeps them on) if ambient is too low. And, such overriding control operates both during, and outside of, the preset timing.

The Office Action admits that Kaoh '814 does not disclose a display device comprising the presently claimed sensing means, and cites Stackpole '317, column 7, lines 35-48, as allegedly teaching same. Actually, Stackpole '317 discloses solar powered

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lighting system 10 for preventing power consumption of power storage unit 33 during an increase in ambient light. To do this, Stackpole '317, Fig. 8, discloses photocell 138. When ambient light lowers, the resistance of photocell 138 increases until the voltage drop across photoresistor 138 is sufficient to trigger multivibrator 125 to supply power to light emitting device 13. When ambient light increases, the resistance of photocell 138 decreases. However, such decrease of photocell 138 resistance makes it impossible to trigger the multivibrator 125 because multivibrator 125 must be triggered by a rising voltage as opposed to a falling voltage. A falling voltage does not cause power to be supplied to light emitting device 13.

Stackpole '317 does not teach any sensor or light emitting element control that overrides control initiated by preset timing and operates both during, and outside of, such preset timing. Thus, neither Kaoh '814 nor Stackpole '317 provides applicants' emission means comprising overriding functions, i.e., means for switching off power to the light emitting elements when, while power is supplied to the light emitting elements as a result of control caused by the power supply start signal from the

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timer, the sensed illumination density being larger than a predetermined threshold illumination density, and means for switching on power to the at least one light emitting element when, while no power is supplied to the light emitting elements according to the power supply stop signal from the timer, the sensed illumination density being smaller than a predetermined threshold illumination density, as recited in claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Kaoh '814 nor Stackpole '317 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 4 and 6-9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons described herein for claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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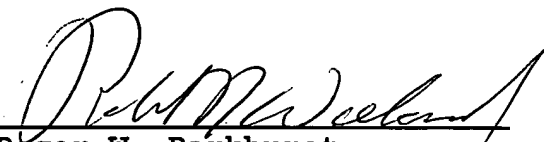
All claims 1, 4 and 6-9 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1, 4 and 6-9 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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